

Chart Explanation

In October 2011, the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center (CBRFC) provided Reclamation with a projected range of inflow volumes for the water year 2012. This projected range of inflows is bounded by a Maximum Probable inflow volume and a Minimum Probable inflow volume for water year 2012. From a probability perspective, the Maximum Probable inflow volume is the volume that would be expected to be exceeded 10% of the time. The Minimum Probable inflow volume is the volume that would be expected to be exceeded 90% of the time. The forecasted range of inflows is developed such that the actual inflow volume is expected to fall within the forecasted range 80% of the time.

Computer simulations were prepared in October 2012 to project the probable range of elevations that Lake Powell could experience during water year 2012 based on the projected range of inflows provided by the CBRFC. The area on the chart with the light blue color indicates the most probable range of Lake Powell elevations throughout water year 2012. Statistically, there is a 20% chance that future Lake Powell elevations fall outside of the range indicated on the graph.

The probable range is updated in the following months each year: August, October, January and April. The next update to the probable range is in January 2012.

In addition to the development of the probable range of Lake Powell Elevations, a projection of the the most probable Lake Powell elevation is maintained and updated each month based on the most probable inflow projection. The thick blue line within the probable range shows the most probable Lake Powell elevation projection for the future. This line indicates the elevation profile from the December 24-Month Study and this is an update from the October projected range.

The dark blue points on the left side of the graph indicate the historic elevations.

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